1: Raswan, Carl R. Black Tents of Arabia. New York: Creative Age Press, 1947.

Pp. xvi, 206; 14 plates.

Yale: Eeia 935 rg.

[The author, a German by birth, spent 22 years off and on among the Bedouins of Arabia. He recounts in his book his experiences in migrating, hunting, and raiding with the various tribes, the major part of the book being devoted to his life with the Rwala. There is a great deal of information on the code of honor and ethics in dealings between individuals and tribes. There is an account of a drought and the resulting emigration of the Rwala tribe to Syria in search of pasture. There is also a full account of a courtship and marriage between two of the author's Arab friends. There is illuminating material throughout the book on personality types and behavior among the Bedouins. While the bulk of the material appears in the categories of the Rwala file, several sections concerning other tribes have been categorized for the Bedouin file. --Analyst]

Field date: 1913-35
Analyst: Beverly Calsoyas

Evaluation: Traveler-3
Processed in 1955

2: Musil, Alois. The Manners and Customs of the Rwala Bedouins. New York: The American Geographical Society, Oriental Explorations and Studies, No. 6, 1928.

Pp. xiv, 712; 60 illustrations; physiographic glossary; index.

Yale: Nkd72A6. 928m.

[The author, who was Professor of Oriental Studies at Charles University in Prague, spent many months traveling and camping with the Rwala. The results of his studies are given in this volume, supplemented by details learned from a companion of the Sba'a tribe. He has presented an immense amount of detailed information on the structure of Rwala society, native customs and traditions, domestic animals and animal transport, native beliefs and code of ethics, and war and peace. On most of these subjects the author has presented native ditties, songs and poems in Arabic and in translation which he heard in the desert and has tried to reproduce exactly as he heard them. In the author's notes following the literary texts there is a great deal of miscellaneous ethnographic material which has been categorized, as well as information about the poets and authors and the circumstances of composition. Throughout the volume there is much valuable information on native terminology and stylistics, the Arabic term and

2: Musil

the author's translation being given in each case. There is an especially comprehensive section on war and peace in which the author makes clear how large a part this plays in Rwala life. He has not only described all the aspects of raids and warfare between the various clans and tribes, but has also presented a number of native accounts of wars and raids in which there is considerable material on tribal relations, the recent history of the Rwala, famous warriors and chiefs, etc. Large sections, including the poems, dities, songs, narratives, anecdotes, etc. have been categorized for section 116 only. --Analyst]

Field date: none
Analyst: Beverly Calsoyas

Evaluation: Social Scientist--5
Processed in 1955